(v) Mechanisation of underground mines by introducing mechanical loadig at the coal pit and transportation of coal by conveyors, being taken up in a large way in several mines.

(v) Invitation of global bids for optimisation of coal production in seven underground mines of South Eastern Coalfields Limited by introduction of modern technologies on gain/risk sharing basis.

Lathi charged on workers of Singareni collieries in Adilabad, Andhra Pradesh

2279. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether CISF Jawans lathi charged the workers in Mandamarri division of Singareni Collieries in Adilabad district in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday, the 9th February, 1997;

(b) the reasons for the clash leading to lathi charge;

(c) the number of workers injured; and

(d) the action taken against those involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the third shift of 9.2.97 two CISF constables on duty found a workman stealing a safari clamp. During the chase, the culprit escaped and another worker not connected with the incident was caught and beaten up by CISF constables. The workmen gathered and beat up one of the constables while the other one escaped. On receiving the information that one of the constables was missing, the Inspector, CISF Unit reached the spot and lathi charged the workmen under the impression that the constable was kidnapped by the workmen.

(c) Eleven workers were injured.

(d) The Inspector and the CISF constable have been placed under suspension as disciplinary proceedings against them is contemplated.

बिहार के हजारीबाग जिले में लपंगा कोलियरी में आग

2280. **श्री ज्ञान रंजनः** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या बिहार के हजारीबाग जिले में लपंगा कोलियरी में पिछले 5 माह से आग लगी हुई है;

(ख) क्या उक्त कोयला खान में 500 कर्मकार कार्यरत हैं;

(ग) क्या वहां अभी तक कोई मशीन नहीं लगाई गई है;

(घ) यदि उपर्युक्त भागों के उत्तर सकारात्मक हैं तो वहां मशीनें न लगाये जाने हेतु जिम्मेदार अधिकारियों के नाम क्या हैं; और

(ङ) क्या सरकार उनके विरुद्ध कोई कार्रवाई करने का विचार रखती है; यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कान्ति सिंह): (क) कोल इंडिया लि० (को०इं०लि०) द्वारा प्रस्तुत की गई सूचना के अनुसार, बिहार के हजारीबाग जिले में लपंगा कोलियरी में कोई आग विद्यमान नहीं है।

(ख) लपंगा कोलियरी में 581 कामगार कार्यरत हैं।

(ग) लपंगा कोलियरी में पारम्परिक खनन मशीनरी स्थापित की गई है तथा वहां सामान्य रूप से उत्पादन चल रहा है।

(घ) और (ङ) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है।

Opening Coal Sector for privatisation

2281. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open coal sector for privatisation if so, the number of proposals received indicating the locations thereof;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "Deregulation may lead to hike in coal price" which appeared in the Hindustan

Times dated the 13th February 1997, if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring down the coal prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Subject to legislative changes, the Government have decided to offer new coal blocks, to the Indian Companies both in the public and private sectors, on the basis of competitive bidding. The bids will be invited only if legislative changes are enacted and the guidelines on bidding are formulated thereafter. Therefore, the question of receipt of proposals at this stage does not arise.

(b) Yes, Sir. The news item has rightly justified the phased deregulation of coal prices on the following grounds:—

(i) heavy budgetary support from the Government to the nationalised coal companies is no longer available.

(ii) to enable the nationalised coal companies to absorb the cost of production with the coal prices;

(iii) to enable the nationalised coal companies to generate adequate internal resources needed to run their coal mines efficiently as well as for exploring new areas.

(c) The price of coal is a function of productivity and efficiency in the utilisation of machines. This will improve with competition which will increase as a result of the proposal as at (a) above.

Coal requirements of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur

2282. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirement of coal of the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur for their industries;

(b) whether there is a gap between its demand and supply;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to supply adequate quantity of coal to the States of Manipur, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The requirements of coal are assessed Industry/Sector-wise for the whole country. They are not assessed State-wise. Coal companies are supplying coal based on the programmes submitted by the consumers in accordance with the sponsorships issued by the respective sponsoring authorities and to the extent of their entitlement. Coal supplies to power and cement industries are made based on short-term linkages established by the Standing Linkage Committee. The total despatches to Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh for the year 1995-96 were 15.86 million tonnes and 41.39 million tonnes (Provisional) respectively. CIL is not separately maintaining data relating to despatches of c to Manipur.

(b) to (d) As a result of higher priority given for supply of coal to the power sector, and as a result of sharp increase in the demand of coal from this sector, supplies of coal to other sector consumers may have been affected. Coal companies are endeavouring to meet the requirements of coal of all consumers in the country including that of consumers in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur. In addition, coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Sale Scheme (Modified) under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirement of linkages/sponsorships.

European Union's decision on Basmati Rice

2283. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of basmati rice exported during last three years; year-wise and country-wise including the foreign exchange earned therefrom;